

DOCKET NO.: ELSE-0827/E20030020
Application No.: 10/803,213
Office Action Dated: May 22, 2006

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

REMARKS

Entry of this response and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-13 and 18 stand rejected in the office action. Claims 14-17 and 19-29 previously have been withdrawn. Claim 1 has been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Therefore, following entry of the present response, claims 1-13 and 18 will remain pending in the present application.

Formal drawings were submitted with the response filed on March 24, 2006. Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the drawings as formal.

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-13 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,457,621 to Munday *et al.* ("Munday"). In particular, the office action contends that Munday's "+5 at 96, 26, VDD and/or +5 .5, see fig. 2-3" teaches the presently claimed features of "a DC power source in parallel circuit configuration with the AC voltage, wherein the DC power source provides a DC bias voltage to the AC voltage." (*Office Action dated May 22, 2006* at p. 3). Also, claims 3 and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Munday as applied to claims 1 and 2.

In response to applicant's previous argument, the office action suggests that certain "features upon which applicant relies (i.e., biasing to keep inputted AC voltage from swinging below the power supply's acceptable level) are not recited in the rejected claims." *Id.* at p. 2. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite the feature of a direct current (DC) bias voltage maintaining an AC voltage above a predetermined voltage level acceptable to a power supply. The power supply converts the AC voltage to a DC voltage for powering the electronic components of an electrical power meter. Also, a DC power source

in parallel circuit configuration with the AC voltage provides a DC bias voltage to the AC voltage.

As previously noted, the Examiner is respectfully requested to recognize that Munday does not describe biasing the inputted AC voltage in such a manner. In fact, the biasing discussed in Munday is with reference to a voltage blocking clamp that limits voltage applied to a transformer in the power supply. The biasing means in the voltage blocking clamp operates to insure that the voltage provided by the voltage clamping clamp does not exceed a desired level. This desired level represents the most voltage that the electronic circuitry can handle.

In other words, and unlike the presently claimed features, Munday does not discuss biasing to keep the inputted AC voltage from swinging below the power supply's acceptable level. Quite the contrary, Munday's biasing is accomplished to clamp the inputted voltage to keep it from *exceeding* a certain value. The relevant portion of Munday, Column 8 line 60 to Column 9 line 3, is provided:

As discussed above, transistors 344 and 346 act as a voltage clamp and limit the voltage applied to switching member 302. At a 528 VAC line voltage, the input to the clamping circuit reaches 750 volts. During lightning-strike surges, this voltage may approach 1500 volts. When the voltage at the output of bridge rectifier 348 exceeds 400 volts, zener diodes 352 and 354 begin to conduct. These diodes, along with the 33 K.OMEGA. resistors 356, 358 and 360, create bias voltages for transistors 344 and 346. Transistors 344 and 346 act as source followers and maintain their source voltages a few volts below their gate voltages.

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Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 4, 7-13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Munday. Also, for the same reasons as discussed above, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Munday.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Vincent J. Roccia at (215) 564-8946, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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